WO 2005/021153 PCT/EP2004/008964

12

(vs), 1032 (vs), 969 (m), 643 (s), 582 (m), 518 (m).

% of Rh (measured by ICP = inductively coupled plasma): % theoretical: 25.97

% actual: 25.30

Elemental analysis:

% of C, theoretical 27.28

% of C actual 26.95

% of H, theoretical 4.07

% of H actual 4.3

% of S theoretical 8.09

% of S actual 8.33

The structure of the complex was confirmed by X-ray crystal structure analysis.

CLAIMS

1. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex of the general formula (1):

$$[Rh(diene)(H2O)2]X$$
 (1)

where diene is a cyclic diene and X is a noncoordinating anion.

- 2. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to Claim 1, wherein diene is 1,5-cyclooctadiene (COD) or norbornadiene (NBD).
- 3. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein X is a noncoordinating anion selected from among BF₄ and CF₃SO₃.
- 4. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 3 having the name 1,5-cyclooctadienebisaquorhodium(I) tetrafluoroborate.
- 5. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 3 having the name 1,5-cyclooctadienebisaquorhodium(I) trifluoromethylsulphonate.
- 6. Diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the complex is in the form of a solid.
- 7. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 6, which comprises reacting a rhodium(I)-olefin compound with silver salts in an aqueous solvent mixture, characterized in that the silver salt is not added as a solid to the reaction mixture but is instead prepared in solution and added in this form.

- 8. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to Claim 7, wherein the silver salt is prepared in solution by reacting silver oxide (Ag₂O) with the acid corresponding to the noncoordinating anion of the diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex.
- 9. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to Claim 8, wherein the acid is used in an excess of up to 0.5 molar equivalents over the silver oxide.
- 10. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 7 to 9, wherein the preparation of the silver salt is carried out in an aqueous medium.
- 11. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 7 to 10, wherein the rhodium(I)-olefin compound is [Rh(COD)Cl]₂.
- 12. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 7 to 11, wherein the aqueous solvent mixture comprises water together with up to 10% by volume of at least one alcoholic solvent.
- 13. Process for preparing a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to Claim 12, wherein the alcoholic solvent is selected from among methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol and tert-butanol.
- 14. Use of a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 6 in catalytic reactions.
- 15. Use of a diene-bis-aquo-rhodium(I) complex according to any of Claims 1 to 6 for preparing heterogeneous catalysts.